03040204-010

(Little Pee Dee River)

General Description

Watershed 03040204-010 (formerly 03040204-015) is located in Marlboro, Dillon, and Marion Counties and consists primarily of the ***Little Pee Dee River*** and its tributaries from its origin to Leith Creek. The watershed occupies 29,764 acres of the Upper Coastal Plain region of South Carolina. The predominant soil types consist of an association of the Norfolk-Lakeland-Wagram series. The erodibility of the soil (K) averages 0.14; the slope of the terrain averages 5%, with a range of 0-15%. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 44.8% agricultural land, 34.9% scrub/shrub land, 11.2% forested land, 8.1% forested wetland (swamp), and 1.0% water.

This upper reach of the Little Pee Dee River accepts drainage from several tributaries that originate in North Carolina. Beaverdam Creek flows through McNairs Millpond and accepts drainage from Parker Branch, Marsnip Branch, McLaurins Millpond, and Panther Creek (Bear Creek) before merging with Gum Swamp to form Red Bluff Lake and the headwaters of the Little Pee Dee River. Reedy Branch enters the river next before converging with the Leith Creek Watershed. There are numerous lakes and ponds (totaling 186.4 acres) used for recreation, irrigation, and industrial purposes in this watershed and a total of 33.6 stream miles, all classified FW.

Water Quality

Station #	Type	Class	Description
PD-306	S	FW	PANTHER CREEK AT US 15 OUTSIDE MCCOLL
PD-016	S	FW	PANTHER CREEK AT S-35-27
PD-017A	S	FW	MCLAURINS MILL POND SC 381
PD-062	S	FW	GUM SWAMP
PD-365	W	FW	LITTLE PEE DEE RIVER AT S-17-363

Panther Creek - There are two monitoring sites along Panther Creek. This is a blackwater system, characterized by naturally low pH and dissolved oxygen concentrations. Although pH and dissolved oxygen excursions occurred at both sites, they were typical of values seen in blackwater systems and were considered natural, not standards violations. Aquatic life uses are fully supported at the upstream site ***(PD-306)***; however, there is a significant increasing trend in turbidity. There is a significant increasing trend in pH. Recreational uses are fully supported; however, there is a significant increasing trend in fecal coliform bacteria concentration.

At the downstream site ***(PD-016)***, aquatic life uses are also fully supported. A significant increasing trend in dissolved oxygen and a significant decreasing trend in five-day biochemical oxygen demand suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Recreational uses are fully supported.

McLaurins Mill Pond (PD-017A) - Aquatic life uses are fully supported. This is a blackwater system, characterized by naturally low pH and dissolved oxygen concentrations. Although pH and dissolved

oxygen excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in blackwater systems and were considered natural, not standards violations. There is a significant increasing trend in pH. A significant increasing trend in dissolved oxygen suggests improving conditions for this parameter. Recreational uses are fully supported, and a significant decreasing trend in fecal coliform bacteria concentration suggests improving conditions for this parameter.

Gum Swamp *(PD-062)* - Aquatic life uses are fully supported. This is a blackwater system, characterized by naturally low pH and dissolved oxygen concentrations. Although pH and dissolved oxygen excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in blackwater systems and were considered natural, not standards violations. A significant increasing trend in dissolved oxygen suggests improving conditions for this parameter. Recreational uses are fully supported.

***Little Pee Dee River (PD-365)* -** Aquatic life uses are fully supported. This is a blackwater system, characterized by naturally low pH. Although pH excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in blackwater systems and were considered natural, not standards violations. Recreational uses are fully supported.

A fish consumption advisory has been issued by the Department for mercury and includes the Little Pee Dee River within this watershed (see advisory p.115).

NPDES Program

Active NPDES Facilities

RECEIVING STREAM	***NPDES#***
FACILITY NAME	***TYPE***
PERMITTED FLOW @ PIPE (MGD)	***LIMITATION***
COMMENT	
GUM SWAMP	SC0041963
TOWN OF MCCOLL/WWTP	MINOR DOMESTIC
PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 0.400	EFFLUENT

Growth Potential

There is a low potential for growth in this watershed, which contains the Town of McColl. The Town of McColl has water and sewer service in and immediately surrounding the town, which could encourage some growth.